

GREAT GRANSDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 1st August 2016

Those present were:

Ian Selkirk Chairman

Andrew Pett Vice Chairman

Diane Taylor Clerk

Michael Capps Parish Councillor

Alan Rowbotham Parish Councillor

Ann Cosgrave Parish Councillor

George Craze Parish Councillor

Debi Pearce Parish Councillor

Jeff Gorton Parish Councillor

District Councillor Barbara Boddington, District Councillor Richard West
and 7 members of the public

1. The meeting was opened at 7.30 pm with a silent prayer

2. Apologies. Apologies were received from County Councillor Julie Wisson and Parish Councillor Stephanie Beaumont. Parish Councillor Andrew Pett gave his apologies for having to leave the meeting early.

3. Declarations of Interest.

Planning:

12.3. 26 Middle Street. Michael Capps and Debi Pearce declared a pecuniary interest as owners of a neighbouring property.

12.4. 2 Little Gransden Lane. Alan Rowbotham declared a pecuniary interest as owner of a neighbouring property.

12.5. 15 Crow Tree Street. Alan Rowbotham declared a pecuniary interest as owner of a neighbouring property.

4. Minutes of the previous monthly meeting held on 4th July 2016, which had been circulated, were approved and accordingly signed by the chairman.

5. OPEN FORUM. The meeting was closed for twenty five minutes. Councillor Boddington spoke about the meeting with the Highways Agency about the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet improvement scheme raising issues such as air quality, noise, visual intrusion and access for farmers. As yet there is no indication of the route which will be revealed in the Spring. She also spoke about shared services. Councillor West spoke about the disastrous grass cutting this year and the criteria for the electoral review of Huntingdonshire which appears to be numbers rather than which villages should be grouped together. Nic Johnson spoke about his planning application at 15 Crow Tree Street. Following the previous application and the appeal decision, the new design minimises the impact; there is no dormer, balcony nor erosion into the garden. The garage is set back and the gable end will remain. Martin Page of Barford & Co spoke about the proposed development for 5 houses at 16 – 20 Eltisle Road. He provided a history of the site; the 3 bungalows to be demolished were built in the 1960s and will be replaced with 3 5-bed houses, 1 4-bed and 1 3-bed property. There will be a new access with 2 of the properties fronting the road and 3 to the rear in a courtyard environment. The height has been reduced from 2 to 1.5 story height with single story at the ends. Consideration has been given to separation, privacy and garden area with 4 parking spaces per unit and turning and access areas. Martin Page was questioned by members of the public and councillors about the height of the properties which will block light and overlook properties in Winchfield. Questions were also asked about the type of housing which did not cater for the need for small starter homes or semi detached properties rather than large houses. Mr Page spoke about the discussions with the planners to achieve a mix of properties. Stephanie Reardon spoke about the recent email response to her request for information about measures the parish council is taking against speeding traffic. She was encouraged by the money spent so far but surprised about the relatively low cost of the parish contribution of £2,000. She encouraged more to be done by engaging with the community. Councillors advised that the £2,000 represented 10% of the total budget for this year.

6. Matters Arising: The chairman asked councillors to keep items under matters arising brief and as they should only be status reports.

6.1. Parish Council Communications. Debi Pearce had prepared a report on developments since the last meeting. She spoke about the need to consult councillors on how to launch it to the public. The chairman asked for a recommendation to be put forward for the next meeting. Michael Capps commented on the need for discussion at an open meeting enabling councillors to express a view. Debi Pearce requested that new items to be updated to the Parish Council website be agreed and authorised as a matter of course at every meeting.

6.2. Publication of Background Papers. Councillors considered whether there was a need to publish additional background papers on the website. The chairman in discussion with the clerk to consider what additional papers should be published.

6.3. Garden of Remembrance. Jeff Gorton reported that reasonable progress has been made in tidying the area. The work to date includes trimming the box hedge, cutting the lower tree canopy to allow more light and planting new box hedging to fill in the gaps.

6.4. Local Highways Improvement Bid. The chairman and Debi Pearce had met with Highways engineers at a recent open day. The working group will continue to consider the possible options and will bring a proposal for consideration to a future meeting.

6.5. Village Bins. Little Gransden Parish Council had been asked to consider applying for a bin by the windmill.

6.6. Parish/Neighbourhood Plans. Andrew Pett had obtained examples of plans prepared by villages of a similar size. These will be circulated to councillors.

6.7. Reading Room Projector. The Reading Room committee has no plans to update the equipment. Ann Cosgrave suggested that a cable should be purchased enabling the projector to be used with the council's laptop which does not have a VGA connection. Alan Rowbotham agreed to assist in obtaining further information.

6.8. Tree Warden Post. Michael Capps reported on his attendance at a meeting following the announcement of the deletion of the tree warden post at HDC which will lead to a saving of £21,000. Grant funding was discussed in the hope of retaining the tree warden and the nursery. If this initiative fails, the post will end in March 2017.

7. Ecops Report. The chairman read the report that is filed hereafter as Appendix No. 1.

8. Financial Statement for July 2016. The sheet filed as Appendix No. 2 had been circulated. The statement was unanimously approved and signed by the chairman. Councillors also noted the budget review as at the end of July 2016.

9. Cheques for approval. The following payments were approved:

Proposed Ann Cosgrave, seconded George Craze.	
Peter T Round for Sportsfield grass cutting (July)	£225.00
DP Garden Works for cemetery grass cutting (July)	£180.00
Clerk's salary for July 2016	£470.81
Clerk's office expenses for July	£2.56
Thomas Fattorini for bar badge	£55.46
Jeff Gorton for Garden of Remembrance shrubs	£84.00
Mr & Mrs McIntosh for Garden of Remembrance	£82.50
Global Tree Solutions for church yard trees	£1,380.00
Action on Hearing Loss for loop hearing system	£1,398.95

10. Highways. The chairman reported on his meeting with Ian Winfield, Highways. The issues raised included the gravel washing down Meadow Road, the deteriorating tarmac along the side of Waresley Road, the blocked culvert on Meadow Road, the surface of Hardwick Road which is

breaking up and the condition of Caxton Road adjacent to the crane depot. All were inspected and Ian Winfield will investigate. CCC is still in dispute with the contractors who installed the grasscrete at the Mill Weir lay-by. The work was not completed to the correct specification and the parish council will no longer be asked to pay the original agreed contribution of £3,000. Michael Capps spoke of the difficulty in maintaining the hedge following the installation of the bollards adjacent to the hedge.

Ian Selkirk also spoke about the A428 community forum meeting he had recently attended with Ann Cosgrave. The route has not yet been announced and the team had asked for suggestions. The route to the north is preferable to the south. Concern was expressed whether the consultation process is starting afresh in the light of the previous plans. Councillors agreed to arrange a public meeting to canvass the views of residents. Consideration was given to holding a joint meeting with other villages but councillors decided to canvass the views of Great Gransden residents and to invite the Projects Team to the meeting. The proposed date is Monday 12th September at the School Hall if available.

George Craze reported the pot holes along the side of Waresley Road. This has been reported previously.

Michael Capps spoke about the 3 outstanding tree issues that have been reported; the 3 dead elms in Fox Street, the overhanging branch in Church Street and 2 trees in Little Lane which are overhanging neighbouring property. Clerk to pass the details to Richard West. There is also an overhanging branch on the corner of Fox Street. Michael Capps agreed to look at this.

Jeff Gorton reported the overgrown hedge in West Street. Clerk to write to the landowner.

Ann Cosgrave reported the 'sharp bend sign' near the windmill which has been sprayed with paint. She also reported that 2 cans of yellow spray paint had been purchased and one already used to highlight dog fouling. Dog fouling continues to be a problem in Crow Tree Street.

Debi Pearce reported the smell of sewage at the corner of East Street and Church Street. Clerk to report. Also there is bristly ox-tongue growing in the verge along Caxton Road. The weed is very invasive and will cause a problem if left to seed. Debi Pearce volunteered to remove it.

Ian Selkirk spoke about a need for someone to carry out village maintenance. This is already paid for by CCC, although the service provided has diminished.

11. CORRESPONDENCE. 11.1. The closing date for the devolution consultation is 23rd August. Details are on the parish council website and noticeboard and a lot of information was published in the August edition of Roundabout. Ian Selkirk commented that the proposal for a Mayor for East Anglia, adds another level of government.

11.2. HDC has agreed to continue to empty the village grey bin on a weekly basis.

11.3. Email from Highways England detailing grants available from the A14 Community Fund. Details have been passed onto village organisations and the proposed refurbishment of the village tennis court may benefit. Details to be included in Roundabout and the website.

11.4. Councillors noted the Electoral Review of Huntingdonshire. The Parish council's comments have been ignored in the past. The overriding criteria appear to be the equality in size of each ward.

11.5. Letter from HDC detailing the difficulties encountered with this year's grass cutting programme. Councillors expressed dissatisfaction with the village grass cutting of verges. Clerk to clarify the schedule for the next cut. Some areas may need adding to the schedule to include the corner of Middle Street and Fox Street. (Andrew Pett left the meeting)

11.6. Alan Rowbotham spoke about the speed of agricultural vehicles travelling through the village. Whilst there is no voluntary code, tractor drivers are bound by the speed limits.

11.7. Alan Rowbotham spoke about the deterioration of the sportsfield grass cutting over the past two months with the grass left long. A special cut had been arranged for the adult pitch. The area around the tennis court had not been strimmed. The clerk advised that the present contractor did not wish to seek a renewal of the contract which ends on 31st March 2017. Councillors agreed GSRA should set the brief for a new contract and obtain 3 quotes.

12. Planning. 1. 16/01330/LBC proposed accessible toilets and ancillary developments, Providence Baptist Church, Sand Road. George Craze proposed ‘**Approval**’ on the ground that it is a sensible provision of facilities in a public building. Seconded by Ann Cosgrave and carried unanimously.

2. 16/01376/FUL erection of 3 replacement and 2 new build dwelling following demolition of 3 bungalow properties including the creation of a new access onto Eltisley Road, 16-20 Eltisley Road. Councillors raised concerns about the size of the proposed properties in view of the need for small housing, with 3 of the properties being 5 bedroom, one 4 bedroom and one 3 bedroom and all detached. Concerns were also raised about the need for traffic calming provision with the cul-de-sac development leading onto Eltisley Road, the lack of a footpath, the impact on existing housing with the development overlooking the rear of properties in Winchfield and the height of the proposed properties. The lack of low cost housing/starter homes was not a ground for rejecting the application. Councillors noted that 2 smaller properties remain which are not included in the development. Michael Capps proposed ‘**Approval**’ with provision for a footpath and traffic calming in Eltisley Road. Seconded by George Craze and carried with 5 votes in favour and 2 abstentions. Ann Cosgrave proposed the following rider to the approval. ‘As a village councillors are very disappointed that the development does not meet the needs of the village for smaller housing and due consideration should be given to social imbalances and the bias towards higher wage earners.’ Seconded by Debi Pearce and carried with 4 votes in favour, 1 against and 2 abstentions.

3. 16/01233/HHFUL and 16/01234/LBC to amend previously approved drawings. North elevation to add a velux window and increase the size of the front window to match the kitchen window. South elevation rear, to modify the dormer window to match the height of the adjacent dormer window and to add a pair of doors which also match the adjacent doors. East elevation, to remove the previously approved chimney. Interior alterations to form a larger opening between the new extension and the kitchen, 26 Middle Street. The chairman commented that he did not consider Michael Capps and Debi Pearce had a pecuniary interest. Both councillors had declared an interest at the beginning of the meeting and took no part in the discussion. The chairman read out the comments that had been made by Mrs Capps and Mr Brown, owners of a neighbouring property. Councillors commented on the length of time the matter had been ongoing since the original permission granted in 1997. The application was complex not helped by the lack of paper plans to compare due to e-consultation. Jeff Gorton proposed ‘**Refusal**’ on the ground that the first floor side window is not permanently glazed with obscure glass – condition 6 of the original application 97/1756. Seconded by Ian Selkirk and carried with 4 votes in favour and 1 abstention.

4. 16/01568/TREE work to 4 beech trees, 2 Little Gransden Lane. Alan Rowbotham having declared a pecuniary interest took no part in the discussion. As the owners are managing the trees rather than chopping them down, Michael Capps proposed ‘**Approval**’ on the ground that they accept the advice of the consultant and are pleased the householder is prepared to manage the trees. Seconded by Ann Cosgrave and carried unanimously.

5. 16/01441/HHFUL conversion of existing detached garage to living room and insertion of roof balcony windows, 15 Crow Tree Street. Alan Rowbotham having declared a pecuniary interest took no part in the discussion. Michael Capps proposed ‘**Approval**’ on the ground that it is less intrusive sandwiched between the 2 listed buildings. Seconded by Jeff Gorton and carried unanimously.

The Next Meeting has been arranged for Monday 5th September 2016

This meeting closed at 9.55pm.